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Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Algeria and Cameroon: draft resolution

Emergency assistance to the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/1 O of 17 December 1998, and its previous resolutions on the emergency assistance to the Sudan,

Recalling its draft resolution on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel,[1]

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[2] adopted by the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session, in which, among other things, the Council reaffirmed that international cooperation to address emergency situations should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Welcoming also agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[3] in which the Council addressed the theme of "international cooperation and coordination responses to the humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" in its second humanitarian segment,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

[1] A/54/L.70.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.

[3] A/54/3. To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.

[4] A/54/295.

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Welcoming the decision of the Government of the Sudan to provide access to the Nuba Mountains, and noting in that regard the results of the inter-agency needs assessment mission undertaken by the United Nations, and calling upon all parties to continue to cooperate with the United Nations in meeting the needs identified in that assessment,

Noting the occasional obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, welcoming the agreements reached by the parties to Operational Lifeline Sudan, among them the Rome protocol, aiming at facilitating delivery of relief assistance to affected populations, as well as the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the coordination of the operation,

Urging United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and donor countries to continue channelling their humanitarian assistance to all affected populations in the Sudan through Operation Lifeline Sudan,

Expressing concern over the continued conflict in the Sudan and its negative impact on the humanitarian situation,

Taking note of the ongoing peace efforts taking place under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the initiative of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, as complementary efforts for achieving a negotiated and lasting peace in the Sudan,

Noting with appreciation the contributions for the inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan and the progress made in the operation, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain to be addressed, including assistance to combat diseases such as malaria, and assistance for logistic needs, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Expressing concern over the damaging consequences of floods that have occurred in various parts of the country lately,

Calling for an early resolution to the conflict, and expressing concern that its continuation further increases the suffering of the civilian population and undermines the effectiveness of international, regional and national humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to continue to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing emergency assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, and to ensure safe and unhindered access to all affected populations,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donor community, United Nations agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations for the contributions so far made to the humanitarian needs of the Sudan, and calls upon them to continue their assistance, in particular by responding to the consolidated appeal and providing support for programmes in the Nuba Mountains;

2. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations with a view to improving United Nations assistance to the affected areas, encourages the continuation of that cooperation, and calls upon all parties to the conflict to respect the current humanitarian ceasefire, in order to ensure the delivery of relief assistance;

3. *Stresses the need* for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated and managed with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full involvement and cooperation of the Government of the Sudan, taking cognizance of the relevant Operation Lifeline Sudan agreements reached by the parties, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation;

4. *Recognizes the need* for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be conducted in strict adherence to the principles of neutrality and impartiality and within the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, and within the framework of international cooperation, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the country;

6. *Urges* the international community to give assistance for the rehabilitation of transportation means and infrastructure vital for the provision of relief supplies in the Sudan and their cost-effectiveness, and in this context stresses the importance of continued cooperation by all the parties involved so as to facilitate and improve the delivery of relief supplies;

7. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions, to combat such diseases as malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

8. *Urges* the international community to continue to support national programmes of rehabilitation, voluntary resettlement and reintegration of returnees and the internally displaced, as well as assistance to refugees;

9. *Stresses the imperative* of ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, as well as safe and unhindered access for providing relief assistance to all affected populations, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and of international humanitarian law reaffirming the necessity for humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the Sudan;

10. *Welcomes* the decision of the Government of the Sudan to extend for a further period of three months the ceasefire for all the areas of military operation in the country and the announcement by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Army of the continuation of the humanitarian ceasefire within the same period for Bahr al Ghazal and parts of the Upper Nile, strongly appeals for a comprehensive ceasefire and appeals to the parties and the revitalized mediation structure to work to this end as part of a negotiated solution to the conflict;

11. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with especial emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as on meeting emergency relief needs;

12. *Calls upon* all parties to respect international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians during times of war and, in this connection, condemns attacks against civilians and humanitarian personnel, including the case of four Sudanese nationals, who were abducted on 18 February 1999 while accompanying a humanitarian mission of an International Committee of the Red Cross team and subsequently killed while in the custody of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Army, and urges the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Army to return the bodies to their families;

13. *Condemns* the detention of humanitarian personnel, and calls for appropriate investigations into all allegations of such incidents, including into the whereabouts of the eleven personnel of the sub-Saharan international development organizations last seen in rebel-held areas;

14. *Welcomes* the signing by the Government of the Sudan of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[5] urges all parties to the conflict to desist from using them, calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the region, and urges the international community and United Nations agencies to provide appropriate assistance related to mine action in the Sudan;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the Sudan.

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[5] See CD/1478